



Montana Nurses Association

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HJ 34 – Interim Committee Study on Transportation of Mentally Ill People - Support

Good afternoon chairman and fellow Committee members

Montana Nurses Association (MNA) is the “voice of nurses in Montana” representing Registered Nurses and Advance Practice Register Nurses throughout Montana. We advocate for improved, cost-effective, access to healthcare and for safe patient handling and improved health outcomes

Today I come before you in support of HJ 34.

Individuals with mental illness are often transported for evaluative purposes under mechanical and/or chemical restraint. This process of transport is inhumane and often injurious to the patient. MNA is driven to see this practice corrected and appreciate the bill sponsor for bringing it forward.

HJ 34 and another bill presently alive in the legislature (HB 634) creates a state operated transportation service that is funded by county reimbursement for services performed. The expected end result is a budget neutral program that improves patient transport between health care facilities in Montana and corrects the practice of restraint during transport for debilitated patients.

MNA respectfully requests that this committee give a “do pass” on HJ 34 insuring that a study is completed and debilitated patients who require transport, are treated in a humane way at all times in the continuity of care.

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